

CLAIMS

WE CLAIM:

1. A circumferential retractor apparatus comprising:

a first retractor paddle having an interior grasping surface, said first retractor paddle having a body portion supporting said grasping surface;

a second retractor paddle having an interior grasping surface, said second retractor paddle having a body portion supporting said grasping surface; and

an elastic member having one end received by said first retractor paddle and an opposite end received by said second retractor paddle.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1, each of said first and second retractor paddles being of an identical configuration.

3. The apparatus of Claim 1, each of said first and second retractor paddles having a hole formed in said body portion, said one end of said elastic member extending through the hole in said first retractor paddle, said opposite end of said elastic member extending through the hole of said second retractor paddle.

4. The apparatus of Claim 3, said body portion having an arcuate portion, said body portion having a pair of blocks connected to a bottom of said arcuate portion, said pair of blocks being separated by a space, said one end of said elastic member passing through the space of said first retractor paddle, said opposite end of said elastic member passing through the space of said

second retractor paddle.

5. The apparatus of Claim 4, said hole formed through said arcuate portion, said arcuate portion having an interior surface having a plurality of ribs extending outwardly therefrom.

6. The apparatus of Claim 3, said hole having a slot opening thereto, said one end of said elastic member being fixed in the slot of said first retractor paddle, said opposite end of said elastic member being fixed in the slot of said second retractor paddle.

7. The apparatus of Claim 6, said slot being tapered so as to have a wide end opening to said hole and a narrow end away from said hole.

8. The apparatus of Claim 1, said grasping surface comprising a plurality of fingers extending outwardly of said body portion.

9. The apparatus of Claim 8, each of said plurality of fingers comprising:

a first section connected to said body portion and extending outwardly therefrom;

and

a second section extending transversely from an end of said first section opposite said body portion.

10. The apparatus of Claim 9, each of said first and second sections having an interior surface, said interior surface having a plurality of ribs extending outwardly therefrom.

11. The apparatus of Claim 10, said plurality of ribs having a generally semicircular indentation formed between adjacent pairs of said plurality of ribs.

12. The apparatus of Claim 8, said plurality of fingers arranged in parallel relationship to each other.

13. The apparatus of Claim 1, said elastic member being a length of surgical tubing.

14. The paddle for a circumferential retractor apparatus comprising:
a paddle member having a body portion supporting a grasping surface, said body portion having a hole formed therein suitable for receiving an elastic member therein.

15. The paddle of Claim 14, said body portion having an arcuate portion, said body portion having a pair of blocks connected to a bottom of said arcuate portion, said pair of blocks being separated by a space, said space being suitable for allowing the elastic member to pass between said pair of blocks, said hole being formed in said arcuate portion, said arcuate portion having an interior surface with a plurality of ribs extending outwardly therefrom.

16. The paddle of Claim 15, said hole having a slot opening thereto, said slot being suitable for allowing the elastic member to be fixed therein, said slot being tapered so as to have a wide end opening to said hole and a narrow end away from said hole.

17. The paddle of Claim 14, said grasping surface comprising a plurality of fingers extending outwardly of said body portion.

18. The paddle of Claim 14, each of said plurality of fingers comprising:

a first section connected to said body portion and extending outwardly therefrom;

and

a second section extending transversely from an end of said first section opposite said body portion.

19. The paddle of Claim 18, each of said first and second sections having an interior surface, said interior surface having a plurality of ribs extending outwardly therefrom.

20. The paddle of Claim 17, said plurality of fingers arranged in parallel relationship to each other.